IN THE CLAIMS:

Substitute the following claims for the pending claims having the same numbers.

1. (currently amended) A cable duct device, comprising:

a swellable packer of the kind in which the packer is adapted for sealing an annulus, the packer including a seal material which swells and thereby increases in volume in response to contact with a swell-activating material;

at least one through-going opening ~~provided in~~ positioned between an inner surface and an outer surface of the packer and adapted to constitute a duct for a cable or pipe; and

a slit extending between the through-going opening and ~~an~~ the outer surface of the packer prior to actuation of the packer.

2. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the through-going opening encloses the cable both prior to and after swelling has occurred in the swellable packer.

3. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the through-going opening has a variable longitudinal extension.

4. (previously presented) The device according to claim 1, wherein the through-going opening has a variable cross-section.

5. (canceled)

6. (currently amended) A cable duct device, comprising:

a packer adapted for sealing an annulus[[,]];

at least one through-going opening ~~provided in~~ positioned between an inner surface and an outer surface of the packer and adapted to constitute a duct for a cable or pipe; and

a slit extending between the through-going opening and ~~an~~ the outer surface of the packer prior to actuation of the packer.

7. (previously presented) The device of claim 6, wherein the packer seals about a cable positioned in the through-going opening when the packer is actuated.

8. (previously presented) The device of claim 6, wherein the packer extends lengthwise in a longitudinal direction, wherein the through-going opening extends longitudinally through the packer, and wherein a cable extends longitudinally through the through-going opening.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) The device of claim 6, wherein a cable is inserted through the slit and positioned in the through-going opening.

11. (currently amended) A method of extending a cable longitudinally through a packer, the method comprising the steps of:

providing a swellable packer including a seal material having an opening extending longitudinally through the seal material and positioned between an inner surface and an outer surface of the packer, and a longitudinal slit extending between the opening and ~~an external~~ the outer surface of the packer prior to actuation of the packer;

inserting the cable into the opening through the slit; and

then swelling the seal material by contacting the seal material with a swell-activating material, thereby causing the seal material to seal about the cable in the opening.

12. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the swell-activating material comprises water.

13. (previously presented) The method of claim 11, wherein the swell-activating material comprises hydrocarbons.

14. (previously presented) The device of claim 6, wherein the packer comprises a swellable packer including a seal material which swells and thereby increases in volume in response to contact with a swell-activating material.